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TORRICELLI, Terzo Centenario della Nascita di Evangelista . . . MDCVIII–MCMVIII.

Due Insigni Autografi di Galileo Galilei e di Evangelista Torricelli. A Facsimile dagli originali della Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze. Omaggio della Biblioteca al Secondo Congresso della Società Italiana per il Progresso delle Scienze. Firenze, Dalla Officina dell R. Istituto Geografico Militaire. MCMVIII. 4to, 22 pp. [With portrait.] [*Gift from the Director, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.*]

WALDSEEMÜLLER, MARTIN.—*Cosmographiæ Introductio* of . . . in facsimile. Followed by the Four Voyages of Amerigo Vespucci, with their Translation into English; to which are added Waldseemüller's Two World Maps of 1507. With an Introduction by Prof. Joseph Fischer, S.J., and Franz von Wieser. Edited by Charles George Herbemann, Ph.D. [4 Plates.] New York, United States Catholic Historical Society. 1907. Sm. 4to.

WORKMAN, WILLIAM HUNTER.—Some Altitude Effects at Camps above Twenty Thousand Feet. [3 illustrations.] *Reprinted from Appalachia, Vol. XI, June, 1908. No. 4.* pr. 8vo [Gift from the Author.]

BOOK NOTICES.

La Science Séismologique. Les tremblements de terre. By Count Montessus de Ballore. With a Preface by E. Suess. 222 figures and maps. Paris, Armand Colin, 1907. (Pr. 16 fr.)

After having traced, in his "*Géographie Séismologique*," the causal relations between earthquakes and geological conditions, the author has given us in this book a treatise on the nature and character of earthquakes as physical phenomena, a physical seismology, so to speak, as compared with the tectonic or genetic seismology of the earlier book. In view, however, of the important influence of seismic movements on geological conditions, and *vice versa*, the author insists that this division of labour which assigns the study of the physical aspects of the phenomenon to the physicist, and that of the geological aspects to the geologist, should never be carried so far as to involve an absolute separation between the work of these two classes of scientists. Many of the difficulties which the purely physical explanation of earthquake problems have encountered may be safely laid at the door of this fatal separation. The purely physico-mathematical treatment deals with the seismic movement as if it were an ideal energy propagated according to strictly mathematical laws in a mathematically ideal medium, which results in a mere semblance of exactness that corresponds neither to actual conditions nor even to the present status of science.

Every natural science, during the successive phases which constitute its evolution, has been dominated by certain paramount theories which, in the course of time, have been replaced by others more in accordance with newer observations. In seismology the epicentrum must, according to the author, now be classed with such. The greater perfection with which instrumental work in seismology has been carried on in recent years has revealed too many discrepancies between this theory and actual observations which, if not perfectly adjusted, are at least accounted for as soon as the theory of an epicentrum is given up. Instead of looking for a local centre of the disturbance, a definition more in accordance with modern observations would characterize the seismic movement rather as a "*mouvement d'ensemble*," e. g., a derangement or displacement of a whole portion of the earth's crust, of tectonic character, and originating at far lesser depths than those required by mathematical speculation based on the supposed existence of an epicentrum. While with regard to quakes of volcanic origin and those due to caving in ("*tremblements d'écroulement*," "*Einsturzbeben*"), the explanation